



FEMA

Mississippi Katrina Recovery

2009 Accomplishments in Mississippi*

Public Assistance

\$181 million in total Public Assistance funding in these categories:

- ♦ Public Works & Public Infrastructure: \$107.5 million
- ♦ K-12 Education: \$13 million
- ♦ Debris Removal/Emergency Protective Measures: \$32 million
- ♦ Medical: \$18.9 million
- ♦ Public Safety: \$2.7 million
- ♦ Other: \$7 million

Mitigation

\$90 million for construction of shelter space in 3 counties

Individual Assistance

- ♦ 2,244 households transitioned to permanent housing
- ♦ In June, FEMA announced very-low-cost mobile homes and park models through its Sales-to-Occupants program, ensuring that many more occupants would qualify to purchase their homes.

* January 20, 2009 – January 4, 2010



Groundbreaking: Fontainebleau Community Center

Mitigation: Through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program FEMA has actively helped Mississippi prepare for future disasters. From funding stronger and better shelters, to buying out flood-prone properties, FEMA has supported the state in creating stronger, more disaster-prepared communities. Examples of hazard mitigation activities include:

- ♦ \$12.8 million to upgrade two newly constructed high schools - West Harrison County High School and D'Iberville High School - to FEMA standards for the design and construction of community safe rooms
- ♦ \$47 million to support the state with updated, upgraded shelters, including multiple facilities in three counties

“Our commitment to the Gulf Coast remains unwavering and our determination to bring to completion many of the projects is still underway. My goal is to eliminate the red tape, help rebuild now and rebuild the region stronger than ever.”

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano

Since the beginning of the Obama administration, significant progress has been made toward the continuing recovery efforts in Mississippi, following Hurricane Katrina. Within the last year, more than \$181 million has been funded toward the continued repair and rebuilding efforts of projects in Mississippi communities. Additionally, more than 45,091 Mississippi households displaced by Hurricane Katrina have found long-term housing solutions.

Public Assistance: Committed to strengthening and accelerating rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast communities recovering from Hurricane Katrina, FEMA has taken decisive action to improve recovery and assist communities still affected by these disasters. More than \$181 million in Public Assistance funding has been awarded to the State of Mississippi for important Hurricane Katrina recovery projects in the last year.



Waveland Pier Groundbreaking

Highlights of Recent Accomplishments

Funds awarded in 2009 will help Mississippi students get back into their schools and provide citizens better access to important services such as protection through police and fire stations, improvements to sewer and water systems and access to public infrastructure such as playgrounds and recreational facilities, including:

- \$17 million to restore the historic Beauvoir-Jefferson Davis Home in Biloxi as well as to complete a museum and library as improved projects on the grounds. These projects are now underway and should be complete by late 2010.
- \$5 million obligated to the Bay St. Louis School District to rebuild the Waveland Upper Elementary. This project is expected to be complete by mid 2010.
- \$7 million to the City of Long Beach for an ongoing infrastructure project that includes utility repair and replacement and the subsequent road repairs. This entire project is expected to be completed in late 2010.
- \$20 million for the restoration of Bert Jones Harbor in the City of Gulfport. Completion of that project is expected in mid 2011.
- \$11.4 million has been obligated to the City of Pass Christian for the repair of water and sewer distribution systems. This project is expected to be complete by early 2011.
- \$7 million to rebuild and restore the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.
- \$26 million to renovate University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus in City of Long Beach

Individual Assistance: In response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA has assisted 1,498,722 disaster survivors with some form of housing assistance totaling

- ◆ \$6 million to acquire flood-prone properties in Ocean Springs

- ◆ \$20 million to upgrade multi-purpose centers, municipal complex building and Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) to FEMA standards for the design and construction of community safe rooms.

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program

(AHPP): AHPP is a one-time, four-year pilot to identify, implement, and evaluate better ways to house disaster victims. On March 31, 2009, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) completed the temporary phase of the \$275 million AHPP grant for Mississippi Park Models and Cottages. During the 18 month implementation, 2,826 Park Models and Cottages were deployed for evaluation and to provide temporary housing in Coastal Mississippi. Park Models are small, one bedroom, transportable units that withstand winds up to 150 mph and meet or exceed local building codes and the International Residential Code (IRC). The cottages are larger two and three bedroom units that meet both the IRC and HUD codes for Manufactured Housing. MEMA is currently working with local communities to convert the units into permanent homes.

Arbitration Panel: On Aug. 6, Secretary Napolitano announced a new arbitration process to expedite resolution of outstanding public assistance projects stemming from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The new arbitration system is designed to further recovery efforts by providing final adjudication of disputes arising from public assistance projects by an independent, neutral panel of arbitrators. This process is an alternative to the current administrative appeals process. To date, a total of 5 Mississippi projects have been submitted through to Arbitration process.

A panel of arbitrators will be available to review certain disputes involving Public Assistance projects in excess of \$500,000 arising from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Multiple, third-party, neutral arbitration panels are established as required to meet the caseload demand. Each panel consists of three judges, independent of DHS. The Civilian Board of Contract Appeals will provide the primary pool of judges. The designated arbitration panel will consider all written statements and supporting documentation from the applicant, the state, and the FEMA regional administrator. Each arbitration panel is expected to make every effort to reach a decision, which will be determined by a majority, within 60 days.

over \$5.2 billion. FEMA conducted the largest temporary housing operation in the history of the country providing temporary housing units (THUs) to 143,123 households throughout the Gulf Coast.

Since January 20, 2009, more than 2,244 households in Mississippi have moved out of FEMA THUs and into more suitable, longer-term, functional housing resulting in 99% of those originally housed, returning to longer-term housing.

On February 12, 2009, Secretary Napolitano announced that FEMA's temporary housing program would be extended for an additional 60 days, where needed, until May 1, 2009 to provide additional time to help disaster survivors get back on their feet. On May 1, 2009, there were 2,188 Mississippi households remaining in temporary housing units. With the close of the FEMA temporary housing program, the Administration understood that this was a difficult time for families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita who were still working to transition from temporary housing to more longer-term housing solutions.

As a result, FEMA and HUD worked with other parts of the federal government, along with state and local partners, to identify and implement new strategies and initiatives to ease the transition for the remaining families. These initiatives were announced on June 5, 2009.

As of January 4, 2009, 319 Mississippi households were still residing in temporary housing units as result of Katrina. 703 households have purchased their unit.

Special Community Disaster Loan Cancellation: The Community Disaster Loan (CDL) Program provides operational funding to help local governments that have incurred a significant loss in revenue, due to a major disaster, that has adversely affected their ability to provide essential municipal services. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Congress established the Special Community Disaster Loan (Special CDL) program specifically to address the particular needs of the Gulf Coast communities affected by those storms.

In March 2009, Secretary Napolitano announced that FEMA proposed an amendment to its Special Community Disaster Loan (SCDL) regulations to include loan cancellation provisions to recipients in Louisiana and Mississippi who received SCDLs following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Special CDLs are 5 year loans. The loans come due 5 years after the issuance date of the applicant's Promissory Note.

FEMA published a proposed rule in April 2009 which included procedures and requirements for SCDL recipients to apply for cancellation of their loan. The comment period for the proposed rule closed June 2, 2009; FEMA received 68 comments.

The final rule, published in January 2010, finalized procedures and requirements for the SCDL recipients to apply for cancellation of their SCDLs. FEMA's authority to provide cancellation of loans is limited to those applicants whose revenues during the three full fiscal year period following the major disaster are insufficient to meet their operating budgets, including additional unreimbursed disaster-related expenses of a municipal operation character.

Applicants are required to apply for loan cancellation through the state Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) before the due date of their loan. For more information please visit www.fema.gov.

"We were truly ground zero here in Hancock County, but with the help of America and volunteers, we have built back. This is a team effort, this [new courthouse] behind us."

**Hancock County Board of Supervisors President
Rodrick "Rocky" Pullman**

